

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Shiomi reference (JP Pub. No. 2001-016509A). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claim 12 recites an image sensing apparatus comprising: a plurality of pixels arrayed in a horizontal and a vertical direction, a storage unit configured to store a plurality of one-dimensional correction data in a horizontal direction in accordance with a plurality of ISO sensitivity settings, a setting unit configured to set ISO sensitivity, a calculating unit configured to generate two-dimensional data by expanding the one-dimensional correction data in a vertical direction, which is stored in the storage unit, a correction unit configured to correct image data outputted from the plurality of pixels by using the two dimensional correction data generated by the calculating unit, and a control unit configured to read the one-dimensional correction data in the horizontal direction from the storage unit in accordance with the ISO sensitivity set by the setting unit, and control the calculating unit so as to generate the two-dimensional correction data by expanding the read one-dimensional correction data in the vertical direction. Applicants' independent claim 13 recites like features.

The Examiner, in the Office Action, argues as follows with respect to the Shiomi reference: "SHIOMI teaches an image sensing apparatus . . . comprising: . . . a storage unit configured to store a plurality of one-dimensional correction data in a horizontal direction (paragraphs 0029-0040, 0068-0086, 0104, 0113, and 0122) in accordance with a plurality of ISO sensitivity settings (paragraph 0046; image sensitivity)" The Examiner also points

out that “the examiner notes that SHIOMI teaches in paragraph 0046 performing correction by sensitivities of an image sensor (i. e. ISO)”.

Looking at paragraph 0046 of the Shiomi reference it simply states, in part, that “12-15 are memory which has memorized the data for performing correction by sensitiveness of an image sensor. [T]he H memory H which has more specifically memorized the 1st amendment data with horizontal 12 -- the H memory H which has memorized the 2nd amendment data with horizontal 1 and 13 -- the V memory V 2 and 14 have remembered the vertical 1st amendment data to be -- 1 and 15 are the V memory V2 which has memorized the vertical 2nd amendment data.”

✖ This passage in the reference thus states that correction is performed by stored data for the sensitiveness of an image sensor, not in accordance correction data stored in accordance with a plurality of ISO sensitivity settings. Moreover, the sensitiveness or sensitivity data stored in these memories in the reference is not data of ISO sensitivity settings, but rather shading compensation data H(i) and V(j) for each pixel position (i,j) of the pixel S on the sensor. This is described in detail in paragraphs [0013]-[0019] and shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 of the Shiomi reference. Also, the storing of this shading compensation image sensor sensitivity data for each pixel position in the memories H and V is described in paragraphs [0056]-[0058] of the Shiomi reference.

Accordingly, the entire basis of the Examiner’s rejection, i.e., that the statement in the Shiomi reference that the storing of data for performing the correction by sensitiveness of an image sensor means the storing of correction data in accordance with a plurality of ISO sensitivity settings, is in error. There is simply no storing of correction data in accordance with ISO sensitivity, let alone a plurality of ISO sensitivity settings. Instead, in the Shiomi

reference the correction data is stored in accordance with the pixel positions.

Moreover, it is not believed that the reference teaches or suggests generating two-dimensional data by expanding the one-dimensional correction data in a vertical direction.

It follows, therefore, that the reference fails to teach or suggest a storage unit configured to store a plurality of one-dimensional correction data in a horizontal direction in accordance with a plurality of ISO sensitivity settings, a setting unit configured to set ISO sensitivity, a calculating unit configured to generate two-dimensional data by expanding the one-dimensional correction data in a vertical direction, which is stored in the storage unit, a correction unit configured to correct image data outputted from the plurality of pixels by using the two dimensional correction data generated by the calculating unit, and a control unit configured to read the one-dimensional correction data in the horizontal direction from the storage unit in accordance with the ISO sensitivity set by the setting unit, and control the calculating unit so as to generate the two-dimensional correction data by expanding the read one-dimensional correction data in the vertical direction.

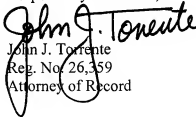
Applicants' independent claims 12 and 13, both of which recite, in one form or another, the above features, thus patentably distinguish over the Shiomi reference.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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